RECORDER.

UNITED WE STAND; DIVIDED WE FALL.

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From the Raleigh Register.

DEBATE ON THE BANK QUESTION,

Which took place in the House of Commons, from Dec. 29, to Jan. 6.

Continued.

Mr. POTTER said, it was a little remarkable that though the gentleman from Newbern admitted the State Bank, at least, had acted improperly, yet he was unwilling to take any step for calling her to account. The language of one of the gentleman's resolutions in relation to the banks, states, that, "from an issue of paper beyond their ability promptly and regularly to redeem, the consequence has been a depreciation in the currency of the state, injurious to the interests of its citizens and the character of its public institutions, and leading to evasions and expedients in the managers of these institutions, always disreputable, sometimes at variance with their charters, and often oppressive to their customers."

Mr. P. did not know how the acts of the banks could be at variance with their charter, without being violations of it.

He adverted to the manner in which the committee who have had the subject under consideration was appointed. When first chosen, there was a majority of the body in favour of proceeding against the banks; the next day additional members were added to the committee. The gentleman from Newbern was named on it, but he declined serving. He would inquire what had now become of the gentleman's scruples! He now takes an active part on the subject, seemingly forgetful of the delicate situation in which he stands. If the resolution under consideration be adopted, says that gentleman, the result will be ruinous to the parties or disgraceful to the state. For if the charges made by the committee prove untrue, or if true, be insufficient in law to warrant a dissolution of the charters of the banks, the state will be disgraced for having thrown the circulation of the country into confusion, when there was not sufficient ground to sustain the charges brought against the banks.

When he called upon the gentleman from Newbern the other day, for an explanation on a certain point, he said he would give it at a proper time. But he had not yet done so.

Mr. P. here enlarged on the distresses experienced by the people from the oppressions of the banks, which he said could be properly appreciated only by those who were eye witnesses of them.

We have, said he, seen the banks carrying on a system of brokerage, and varying, at pleasure, the standard value of the currency of the country, as they determined, from time to time, the amount of money which should be put into, or drawn from circulation. And one of these institutions is now making preparations to extinguish its currency altogether; and thus, by withdrawing one-half of the money in circulation, will be the means of increasing the difficulty of paying, and, in effect, double the amount of the debt to be paid.

Mr. P. did not think it necessary to go into an explanation of the law on this subject, though he had a case at hand (the one which had been cited by the gentleman from Newbern) which would clearly show that the State Bank had been guilty of usury.

We look up to these bank-men, said Mr. P. because they are supposed to have plenty of money, at a distance, with a kind of veneration; for if it were not from fear, or some other feeling, we should at once put them down.

And shall we go back to the people, and tell them that we ought to have had justice done to them for the abuses which the banks had heaped upon them, but that we could not succeed, though, if they will send us another year, we shall probably be able to effect our object?

The gentleman from Newbern, and the members connected with him, will laugh in their sleeve at such a course. They will say to their bank friends, you may go on as you please; it is true, you have set all law at defiance; but you may continue your course, and whenever a prosecution shall be proposed, we have nothing to do but raise a few legal difficulties to prevent any proceedings against you.

If, said Mr. P. the present wretched condition of the people be not sufficient to induce you to enforce the law against these institutions, nothing that I can say will have any effect. The question is merely one of courage. Have you the spirit to put the law in force against the banks, or will you submit to their dictation?—Had the gentleman from Newbern happened to take the other side of the question, Mr. P. believed there would have been scarcely a dissenting voice to the course now proposed. He was of opinion of the gentleman from Mecklenburg, that it is in the power of the legislature to provide by law, that in a case of a dissolution of the charter of the bank, the decree of forfeiture shall not work an extinguishment of the debts due to or from the corporation; and we should thus be relieved from the evils predicted by the gentleman from Newbern.

It had fallen to his lot, Mr. P. said, to visit distant parts of the globe. He had been in a country which consisted of wild extensive forests, inhabited by thousands of wild animals, which without some art being used for the purpose, could not be tamed or approached by any human being. But though wild and fierce when you first approach them, 2 or 3000 being got together, may be driven to and fro, until at length they can be penned and slaughtered without difficulty.

And formerly, said he, we were a bold, high-spirited, independent people; but by the sly, insidious means used by bank managers, we have nearly been brought into the same situation with the above described wild animals, and are ready for destruction.

Mr. P. said he should take his seat, in the hope that some gentleman friendly to the course proposed, would give an explanation of the law as connected with this question.

Mr. ALEXANDER rose, and observed that he did not mean, at present, to enter into the subject before the committee generally. He held in his hand a modification of the resolution and bill offered by the gentleman from Granville, which he offered as substitutes for those at present before the committee.

Mr. A. said, he had no doubt that the facts reported against the Banks of Newbern and Cape Fear, would sustain the charge of a violation of their charters; but every one could see that they had been much less flagrant in their conduct than the State Bank. He wished therefore, to confine the proposed proceedings to the State Bank alone.

Mr. A. said, he hoped to have another opportunity of replying to the arguments of the gentleman from Newbern.

[The resolution and bill offered by Mr. A. were confined to the State Bank, and, it is believed, were precisely the same that Mr. Potter afterwards introduced, as a substitute for his resolution and bill, on its second reading, and on which the final question was taken.]

Friday, Jan. 2.

The house still in committee, Mr. Nash in the chair.

Mr. Alexander had no doubt, the patience of the committee was nearly exhausted. But he considered the subject important, and must therefore, beg their attention for a few moments. He believed the members were desirous of doing what was right, without knowing precisely the best course to be taken.

There was no doubt, Mr. A. believed, amongst members generally, that the State Bank had frequently violated its charter—its managers seem to have paid no regard to the requirements of its charter. A majority of this house, he believed, were therefore disposed to call them before the law.

It will be recollected, that the legislature commenced this inquiry into the conduct of the banks, on the recommendation of our late respectable governor. The committee appointed on the subject had been engaged in the inquiry for several weeks. They have reported to the house, and we are now called upon to authorize proceedings against one of these institutions. But it is said, if we do this, we shall depreciate the value of our bank notes. These are already depreciated—the banks have themselves by their improper conduct depreciated them; they have met together, and publicly declared they would not pay specie for their notes.

The gentleman from Buncombe (Mr. Swain) in his remarks, a few days ago, objected to prosecutions being instituted against any of the banks, upon a ground, which he conceived to be wholly untenable—that although the banks might have violated their charters, that the legislature had connived at it, and therefore been equally to blame with the bank directors. Mr. A. made some reference to authorities in support of his opinion. He believed, that if the facts stated by the committee can be established, no doubt could be entertained of the success of the prosecution, the result of which would be, the forfeiture of the charter and the dissolution of the corporation. And the gentleman from Newbern has said, that an annihilation of all debts due to and from the corporation will, of course, take place.

When he had the honour, some days ago, to address the house, he had denied this consequence. What he meant to state, was, that debtors to or from the bank would not by such an issue, necessarily be discharged from the payment of their debts.

If the committee, then, said Mr. A. be convinced, that the State Bank has violated its charter—if this be granted, and they find that a dissolution of the charter, will not necessarily be an annihilation of the debts to and from the corporation, but that the only consequence will be a winding up of the concerns of the bank in such a way as shall have due regard to the rights of the stockholders, the claims of the creditors and the condition of the debtors, will not the committee sustain me in my position!

Mr. A said, he was not one of those who could say he was regardless of the consequences which might possibly flow from a dissolution of the bank charter. He would be as unwilling as any man to injure the widow or orphan whose property might be vested in this institution; nor could he support any measure that would subject the property of our banks to plunder. But when it is proved that a corporation has repeatedly violated its charter, and when an attempt is made to bring the managers of the institution to justice, its advocates in this house, set the legislature and the Supreme Court at defiance, he was willing to have the matter brought to issue.

Mr. A. recited and advocated the provisions of the bill which he had introduced. He said, the gentleman from Newbern had denied the competency of the legislature to pass a law of this kind, founding his objections on the provisions of the constitution of the United States and of this state. But Mr. A. was of opinion that after the charter was declared to be forfeited, the debts and property might be vested in the general assembly. He saw nothing in the constitution forbidding this course.

Mr. A. referred to the act of 1786 making notes of all kinds negotiable; also to a decision in *Conference Reports* p. 341. to the *Escheat Laws*, and to 1 *Hawks*, 324, and to other authorities, which he cited from a Digest of Cases.

After dilating at some length on these authorities, Mr. A. concluded with noticing the remark of the gentleman from Newbern, that the final decision of this suit, if prosecuted, would doubtless be made in the Supreme Court of the union. To this, he said, he should have no objection. Indeed he should wish that it might be decided there.

Mr. GASTON requested a moment's indulgence, while he gave a short answer to the additional legal argument just urged, and to the questions asked by the gentleman from Mecklenburg. Abandoning the position which he had first taken, and admitting that in law a dissolution of the charters does produce an extinguishment of all debts to and from the banks, the gentleman nevertheless insists, that his second position remains unbroken—still contends, that by an act to be now passed, we can change this penalty for past misconduct into a forfeiture of the property to the state. Mr. G. had already attempted to show that the state could not thus impair the obligation of contracts by adding new conditions or terms to its own grant; that it could not thus divest its citizens of vested rights by partial legislation; and that it could not thus, by an *ex post facto* law, inflict new penalties for past misconduct. And how are these objections answered? By the allegation that the state had exercised this power in many analogous cases, and that the righteousness of this exercise of power had not been questioned.

Sir, said Mr. G. there are few weak arguments so frequently urged as those which are formed from loose and hasty analogies not well examined. A resemblance between cases, where there is any, strikes at first view, the careless as well as the observant; but the difference between them is not noted, until both be attentively considered. Now what are the instances upon which the gentleman relies? In 1789, the general assembly made a grant to the university of the right which the state had to succeed to escheated lands. But long after this, the general assembly passed acts regulating the descent of lands, by which acts, persons were admitted to inherit, who by the existing law of 1789. could not inherit, and thus lands were prevented from escheating which otherwise would have escheated. And the gentleman asks is the constitutionality of these acts doubted? I have never known any discussion on the subject; but I presume the acts are admitted to be constitutional, and this because they do not impair the grant to the university, nor lessen any of its rights. Escheat, is the returning of lands to him of whom they are holden, because of a want of heirs of him to whom they were given. This right to take lands when no heir can be found, the late acts of the assembly have not taken from the university in whole or in part. The legislative power to regulate the descent of inheritances, the assembly never granted, and could not grant to the university; and when they made a gift of the right of escheat, they entered into no covenant, express or implied, to prevent them from exercising their power over descents in such a way as they deemed most conducive to the public weal, although it might render escheats less productive. Once, indeed, the legislature, in a moment of caprice to gratify the popular clamour, and misled by the impious maxim *vox populi vox dei*, did undertake to repeal this grant of the right of escheat. The validity of this attempt came before your judges for consideration, and they decided the act to be repugnant to the constitution, and utterly null. To the honour of the general assembly, they repealed at the next session the unconstitutional act, because they would not have their code polluted by its presence.

The gentleman has also referred to the case of *Wilkinson* v. *Wright*, reported in *Conference Reports*, 341. as much in point. Before the year 1786 a bond could not be so transferred by indorsement as to enable the assignee to maintain an action at law on it in his own name. He was nevertheless considered as the owner of the bond in equity, and he might, even at law, sue on it in the name of the person to whom it was made payable. In that year, the legislature authorized such bonds to be assigned, and the assignee to bring suit at law in his own name. A question arose whether the law then enacted, was intended to embrace bonds already executed before, as well as those to be executed thereafter. On an examination of all the sections of the act, the court in the case of *Wilkinson* and *Wright*, held that it applied only to bonds executed thereafter. So far, there was nothing decided which bore upon this question. But Judge Hall, in delivering his opinion, remarked that if the decision depended on the construction of one section alone, "*perhaps* it might not be improper to hold the action well brought in the name of the assignee".—Perhaps! And this "perhaps" is the sure and solid ground on which the gentleman is fearlessly to risque the most important interests of the state!—Perhaps!—Surely, such an experiment is any thing but wise.

It will be seen, that the inquiry whether the act so construed, would have been repugnant to the constitution or not, was not raised. And no wonder. So delicate and weighty an inquiry is never raised without necessity, and all necessity was in the case before the court saved by the construction given to the law. *Perhaps* if its meaning had been otherwise determined, it might still have been deemed constitutional. The legislature always retain the power to alter remedies so as to protect existing rights, although they have not the power to impair or change the rights themselves. And to allow the assignee of a bond to bring an action at law, instead of leaving him to his bill in equity, would seem to be little more than a mere change of remedy, without injury or alteration to the right of any party. A distinction substantially the same with this, was recognized by our Supreme Court, in the case of *Harrison* v. *Burgess*, determined on the act of 1820, which vested the Supreme Court with jurisdiction of errors in matters of fact. The court held, that the legislature could not, if it would, give them any new law by which to decide on existing rights; but it might give them jurisdiction over controversies where they had not jurisdiction before, and thus enable them to apply to these rights the ancient law, which application, but for the grant of more extensive jurisdiction, the court might have been unable to make.

The gentleman has asked, if lands granted to a corporation revert to the donor, on a dissolution of the corporation, what becomes of those so granted which the corporation may have sold? There is no difficulty presented by the question. Lands which a corporation has lawfully sold, cannot be claimed by the donor upon a subsequent dissolution of the corporation. The corporation had a fee in them, for the body politic might endure forever. To this estate was attached by law the power of sale and alienation. The gentleman will recollect the old doctrine about conditional fees at common law. In these, if the tenant after birth of issue, aliened the land, such alienation barred not only his own issue of the inheritance, but also the donor after reversion. But if no alienation was made, and the issue afterwards died, the land reverted to the donor. If a power of sale be attached to the estate of a tenant for life, when the power is exercised the sale remains good, notwithstanding the death of such tenant. Chancellor Kent has accurately made the discrimination in the passage before referred to, "the lands of a corporation, *which have not been sold*, revert on such dissolution to the donor."

One word more, sir, (said Mr. G.) and I have done. No consideration shall tempt me, I think, to trouble the committee again. The gentleman from Mecklenburg, while he insists that all the banks have violated their charters, and that such violation makes it our duty to assert the supremacy of the law by a judicial prosecution, yet wishes to confine this prosecution to the State Bank alone, as the greatest offender. Sir, I am opposed to this distinction. If all have offended so as to merit civil death, the question of comparative guilt becomes unimportant. If it be our duty, by such a prosecution to vindicate the law, let us go to the full extent to which duty calls us. At all events, if such prosecutions must be instituted, I trust that the bank with which I am connected will not be overlooked upon this occasion.

Mr. FISHER of Salisbury, addressed the chair. He said, that when the discussion first commenced, he had not intended to trouble the committee with a single observation on the subject. Believing as he then did, that he would have to take up some time on his own bill, he was unwilling to obtrude himself too often on the attention of the house. But the ground has been changed; and he now felt it his duty to notice some of the arguments that have been advanced. The question now seems to be—not which of the reports shall we adopt?—but whether we shall legislate at all on the banks, or suffer them to escape unnoticed?

The progress of the debate shows that much interest has been excited, and that great difference of opinion exists on the subject. In this house, he remarked, that a strange and unusual division of parties was to be seen.

First, we see a party disposed to go all lengths against the banks; without making any distinction between the innocent and the guilty, they seemed determined to bring confiscation, ruin, and disgrace, on all concerned with these institutions: take their property without a trial; seize it wherever you can find it, and leave to a future legislature to say whether they will return any portion of it, and if so, then to whom they will return it:—in short, hang first, and try afterwards, seems to be the rule of action. At the head of this party stood the energetic gentleman from Granville (Mr. Potter.)

Directly on the opposite extreme stands another party. If the first wishes to do too much—the second wishes to do nothing at all. They seem to think that we ought not to touch these sacred institutions with our profane hands; they seem to desire, that we should stand by with folded arms, and quietly and calmly see the banks violate their charters, and spread ruin and distress throughout the land. At the head of this party may be placed the distinguished gentleman from Newbern, (Mr. Gaston,) and under his shadow we see gathered, with a few exceptions, all the junior members of the profession.

It is somewhere remarked by the ce

icbrated Mr. Hume, that the extremes are generally much nearer than most people think. Mr. F. said he thought it would have puzzled even Mr. Hume himself to show wherein these two parties approach each other—unless it be in fact, that they are both wrong.

But, said he, there is yet another class of members in this house. It consists of those who are impressed with the necessity of doing something with the banks, but before acting, wish to see their way perfectly clear. On the one hand, they are not willing, regardless of consequences, to hurry into violent measures; and on the other, they are not willing to stand by, and suffer the banks to proceed in a course that seems to put all law at defiance, and threaten wide spread ruin throughout the state. They wish to act in such manner as would extend protection to the people, and do justice to the stockholders. This party had no head, but he hoped it had members; he hoped it had firmness enough, to resist violent measures; and resolution enough, not to be frightened from their duty and their purpose, by the long speeches and awful forebodings of the friends of the banks.

In adverting further to the course of gentlemen, Mr. F. said, the whole proceeding reminded him of a criminal prosecution:—the banks standing at the bar of the house as criminals; the gentleman from Granville acting as the unrelenting prosecuting officer, while the gentleman from Newbern appears as advocate for the accused—and lucky indeed are the banks in having such an advocate—one so able and so zealous. All that could be said in defence of the banks, has been said by that gentleman in the shape of the most ingenious arguments, with studied eloquence, and not without effect. His displays, said Mr. F. reminded him of what is reported of an able lawyer, who once flourished in this state—one now no more, but who, in his day, shone as a distinguished luminary at the bar of North Carolina. The great forte of that advocate, was in the defence of criminals. Such was the ingenuity of his arguments, and the power of his eloquence, that he not only bewildered the court and jury, but often times the criminals themselves were astonished to find how innocent they were. It is said, on one occasion, this gentleman was employed to defend a man charged with horse stealing—a crime then punishable, for the first offence, by hanging. The evidence was pointed, and the general opinion was, that the accused must swing. The advocate however made an unusual display of ingenuity and eloquence, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. After the prisoner was discharged, he was asked by an acquaintance, whether he really was innocent, or no? He answered, that he all along though that he had stolen the horse; but his lawyer, on the trial, had convinced him that he was mistaken. He said, Mr. F. any of the leading spirits of the banks had been present in the gallery, listening to the gentleman from Newbern, during his ingenious and labored defence of them, they too, like the horse-thief, must have been delighted and astonished to find themselves so very innocent.

Mr. Mr. F. said, that no one in this house was more opposed to the original project of the gentleman from Granville, (Mr. Potter,) than himself; and he would add, that he did not like the preamble to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mecklenburg (Mr. Alexander) Before he sat down, he would offer as a substitute, the paper he held in his hand. The leading principle of the bill, however, he was decidedly in favor of,—he was in favour of a judicial investigation into the conduct of the banks. Sir, said Mr. F. it is due to the people of North Carolina, as well as the banks themselves, that a judicial inquiry should be instituted. The banks have been publicly accused of violating their charters, and of practices illegal and corrupt. They are either innocent, or guilty! If innocent, they should be publicly acquitted—it is the only way in which they can be restored to public confidence. If guilty, then it is due to the character of the state that they criminals be brought to justice, and the offending agents punished. It is not our province to pronounce their condemnation, or their acquittal. We are the legislative branch; all that we ought to do, is to satisfy ourselves, that there are just grounds of suspicion; and when we are thus satisfied to hand the offenders over to the courts of justice to be dealt with according to law.

He would ask, if we have not sufficient grounds of suspicion?—He would ask; if the facts laid before us are not strong enough to justify the ordering of a prosecution? Look at the report of your committee—not of the minority, but of the majority itself. Look at that white-washing report, and even there you will find proofs that the banks have grossly violated their charters, and done many acts for which an individual could not escape punishment. Is the practice long pursued by the State Bank, of taking interest for 92 days, instead of 88 not usurious and contrary to law? Let any one make the calculation, and he will find, in this way alone, that bank during its extensive operations, has illegally exacted from the people of North Carolina, an immense sum of money. Is the extensive speculation in cotton in this state, in South Carolina and in Georgia, not a violation of charter? What, sir, do you think of the practice of reducing the value of their own notes, and then sending agents into market to buy them up, at a discount, with specie funds wrung from their debtors at a clear loss to them of from 6 to 10 per cent? Are these facts not strong enough to induce this legislature to order a prosecution? If they are not, he knew not what would be.

Mr. F. said he did not like the course prescribed by the advocates of the banks since the subject has been before the house. In private life, when an individual is wrongfully accused, he is anxious for a trial; knowing his innocence he seeks an investigation as the only method to remove suspicion and vindicate his injured character. The guilty man on the contrary always avoids a trial if he can; he prefers being under public suspicion, to going into court, for to him, odium is better than punishment. How stands the case with the banks? Have they acted like the innocent or the guilty man? Do they come forward and say, let us go to trial, and show the world that we have been wrongfully aspersed. No!—from the very first moment an investigation is talked of, we see their friends in this house, and out of it, busily at work, throwing every obstacle in the way to prevent it. Every argument that could be mustered up by consultation, has been urged here and elsewhere, to dissuade us from acting. The gentleman from Newbern, has presented to us a most frightful dilemma—says he, "If you fail in this business you will be disgraced, and if you succeed you will be ruined,"—and therefore, as a consequence, we must stand still, and let the banks go on acting as they please. But the gentleman, probably suspecting that his arguments on the subject might fail to convince the house, assumes the attitude of menace, and directly threatens us with the Federal Supreme Court! Honest men, said Mr. F. are not to be driven from their duty by threats; on the contrary, they grow firmer in their purpose. He hoped it would prove so on the present occasion.

It has been charged against the banks, said Mr. F. as a violation of their charters, that they have refused to pay specie for their notes, and to his great astonishment, the gentleman from Newbern seems to deny that this is a violation—holding up the book in his hand, he told us that the charters contained all the powers and restrictions of the banks—and that by these charters they were no more required to pay specie, than any individuals in the discharge of their ordinary contracts. Can it be the act, that the banks by their charters are not bound to pay in specie? He denied the position. Without recurring at the present, to the Cape Fear and Newbern Banks, Mr. F. said, he would for a moment call the attention of the house, to the history and charter of the State Bank. At the time that bank was established, our currency consisted of the old Proc. bills—torn, ragged and unsightly in appearance, and of the Cape Fear and Newbern notes. The old Proc. bills were a legal tender in the payment of debts, and payments exacted by execution were always made in this ragged paper. The Cape Fear and Newbern Banks also avoided paying specie, by tendering these bills to the holders of their notes. This being the condition of our currency, it became a subject of ridicule and scorn to the neighboring states, and our own citizens grew ashamed and tired of it. The character of the state actually suffered, and a strong desire every where prevailed to see our currency placed on a better footing. It was under circumstances like these that the projectors of the State Bank came forward with their plan, and strongly urged in its favour, that it would not only rid the state of its paper money but furnish in its place, notes convertible into specie, at the pleasure of the holder. This was, in truth and in fact, the strong inducement held out, and the argument that mainly influenced the legislature in granting the charter.

Here then, we see that the very principle on which the banks were established, was, that it should supply the state with a sound circulation—with bank notes convertible into specie. Has the State Bank or either of the others done this? Has our currency, in any respect, been improved by the change? He thought not:—But, it is not alone in the circumstances which brought these banks into existence, that we find the obligation to pay specie. If we look into the charter of the State Bank, we will see that such was the express contemplation of the law. Why, by the 3d section, was it required that three fourths of the stock should be paid in gold and silver, if it was not intended that it should become a specie paying bank? And what is meant by the 5th section, if it does not mean that the transactions of the bank should be those of a specie paying bank? In short, the charter itself, and all the circumstances under which it was established, plainly show that it was intended to be no other than a specie paying bank. But, said Mr. F independent of these views these banks and all other banks worthy of the name, on general principles, are bound to redeem their notes in specie. This obligation arises from the very face and tenor of their bills; from the condition which gives currency to their notes. The holder of a bank-bill has a perfect right resting on the face of the bill itself, to return it to the bank and demand the specie whenever he may choose to do so, and this ready convrtibility into gold and silver is the first requisite of a good paper currency. Let it not be said to us therefore, that the banks are under no more obligations to pay specie for their notes than any common individual. Sir, who ever heard of a bank, established on any other than a specie basis? No one, certainly!—He begged the gentleman's pardon—he had once heard of such a bank. It was the *Racoon Bank*, established somewhere in the western country—in Kentucky, he believed, during the rage for banks in that state. By the charter of that bank the capital was to consist of Racoon-skins; to be paid in by instalments of so many the season—as they might catch 'em, he supposed. Accordingly the first two or three payments were made in real *bona fide* racoon skins; but, as the story goes, towards the last, 'coon skins began to grow scarce on Green river, as specie did in North Carolina, and then the stockholders were put to their shifts; however, they managed to get around the charter, by splicing racoon tails to possum-skins.

To be continued.

LATE FROM EUROPE.

New York, April 21.

By the George Canning, packet ship, from Liverpool, we have papers from that place of the 24th, and from London of the 23d ult.

The success in the commons, of the measure for Catholic emancipation, is no longer doubtful.

The division, says the Liverpool Times of March 24th, on the second reading of the Catholic Relief Bill, leaves the enemies of emancipation without the smallest chance of preventing, or materially retarding, the passage of that measure through the house of commons. The majority on Wednesday night was as great, within eight votes, as that on Mr. Peel's first explanation of the ministerial plan to parliament. Both parties had received a slight accession of numbers, and the division was most triumphant for the Emancipationists 353 voting in favour of the bill, and 173 against it, leaving a clear excess of 180. As the house contains 648 members, considerably more than a majority of the whole have thus declared in favor of the final settlement of the question by this wise and effectual measure. Had all the members been present, it is probable that the same proportion, that is, more than two to one, would have supported emancipation.

The division on the bill for raising the elective Franchise in the Irish counties—223 for the bill, and 17 against—shows that that measure also will pass without the least difficulty.

A duel had been fought without blood. shed, between the Duke of Wellington and Lord Winchelsea.

Despatches received in London from Brazil, impart the resolution of the emperor to maintain the right of the young Queen to the crown of Portugal, against Don Miguel. As the king of England stated in his speech to parliament that he meant to leave this question to the decision of the head of the house of Braganza, England may, perhaps, aid the Brazilian Empire in establishing Donna Maria on the throne.

We received last night Brussels papers to the 21st inst. It is said, in an article from the frontiers of Russia, that the emperor will leave St. Petersburg on the 4th of May, N. S. that he is to be at Warsaw on the 14th, and that he is to have an interview with the king of Prussia on the Polish frontiers.

We received last night Lisbon papers to the 15th March. Don Miguel is continuing his measures of severity. The last object of his vengeance are certain Professors.

Cadiz a Free Port.—The Madrid Gazette of the 24th ult. which reached us on Monday, contains the long expected decree for making Cadiz a free port. According to this decree, the vessels of all powers in amity with Spain are to enter with, and warehouse, every description of merchandize, without payment of any duty at entering or leaving the port, except the usual charges of a free port, such as quarantine, anchorage, &c. One of the articles of the decree is, that "all foreigners who may wish to establish themselves in this free port, for the purposes of commerce, are to enjoy the same security and protection as natives; and in the event of a war with their respective nations, to be allowed proper time to withdraw; and their property is to be sacred from all sequestration or reprisal."

Venice, as the German papers inform us, is also to be declared a free port.

The accounts in the Paris papers from Barcelonia represent that city as a mournful theatre of massacres, under the pretext of conspiracies and political intrigues.

Turkey.—The French papers contain news from Constantinople of the 8th ult. The Sultan has withdrawn the seals from Izzet Mahomet, the late Captain Pacha, who was only raised to the dignity of Grand Vizier about three months ago. A Capidschi bashi has been sent to Shumla to announce to him his dismissal, but he has not been formally disgraced. Rodosto, on the coast of the sea of Marmora, is assigned him for his residence. The Sultan has appointed as his successor Rechid Pacha, celebrated for the taking of Missolonghi and Acropolis, and for having suppressed the insurrection of the famous Ali Pacha, of Janina. The cause of the deposition of the late Grand Vizier is said to be the extreme dissatisfaction of the Sultan at the little energy which he has shown since the taking of Varna.

Destruction of a Turkish Flotilla.—According to authentic letters from the Russian Head Quarters, dated February 23, official news had been received there of the destruction of the Turkish flotilla before Nicopoli.

For the performance of this brilliant exploit, General Malinossky had sent 200 volunteers of the fifth division of infantry, under the command of Major Stephanoff. The Turkish crews of the flotilla were surprised and *put to the sword!* Of the thirty vessels and gun boats which composed the flotilla, twenty nine were burnt. The artillery and provisions on board the ships were destroyed.

Allgemeine Zeitung, March 9.

From the Harrisburg (Pa.) Argus.

The Dengue, or something like it.—A disease extremely novel in its nature, has attacked several of our citizens, and what, perhaps, is as strange as any thing else about it, is confined, as far as we have heard, to females. In its approaches it resembles the Dengue, so much spoken of last summer in the southern states, where it prevailed to a considerable extent. In all of the instances that we have heard spoken of, it made its first attack upon one of the fingers, causing a sensation something similar to the prick of a briar, but extending with some rapidity up the arm, inflaming it very much and raising upon it welts of the thickness of a man's finger. The disease at this stage is accompanied with a violent fever, which, in some instances, we are informed, has caused a total derangement. On one patient the inflammation and swelling having extended to the shoulder, came down along the other arm as far as the hand, without, however, having crossed the body. We are happy to say that the disease, whatever may be its name, has in no instance proved fatal.

Greenville, April 11.

We understand that a young lady obtained, week before last, in the Court of Common Pleas for Laurens District, a verdict of *fifteen hundred dollars* for a Breach of Marriage Contract. It was proven on trial, that the defendant was worth three thousand dollars. The jury consequently made a generous division of his property in favor of his forsaken love. Such actions have seldom been brought in this country, where marriage is founded on feeling alone and not on pecuniary circumstances. In England they are common, because there, marriage is a matter of treaty between the parents and friends of the respective parties. But in South Carolina, if either of the contracting parties sees proper to change before the consummation, the other cares but very little for it, because it is a matter of love and we cannot love those who do not reciprocate the passion. However, there were certain circumstances of villainy in the case just mentioned, which rendered it a very suitable one for a court of justice. Whenever these circumstances occur, we hope to see the delinquent punished in a similar manner.

Remarkable Snake hunt.—The following extraordinary circumstance is said to have lately occurred at or near Hillsborough, in Fountain county, in the state of Indiana: For some years past this place has been infested with snakes, so numerous that people were not safe even in their beds at night. So great was the terror of the citizens that few dared to venture out after dark for fear of them. Last fall, a person living in the neighborhood, discovered a cave in the bank of the creek, where it was supposed they had taken their abode for the winter. Upon the information obtaining circulation, the citizens turned out en masse to destroy them. They commenced by digging and removing the earth and rocks, from the mouth of the den, until they came to them. They lay in coils in the crevices of the rocks. Wooden hooks were thrust in, and frequently three or four were drawn out. The two first days, they caught one hundred and forty two—about one hundred were Rattle Snakes, and the remainder the Copper headed Snake. They were in general of the largest size.

Digging and killing have since continued, but to what extent we are not informed.

Law Case.—A decision has lately been made in the courts of S. Carolina, that money, the property of a third person, lost at a gaming table, is recoverable at law from the winner. One Main, the clerk of S. & M. Allen, had in possession bank notes belonging to his employers amounting to $2,500. He went to a gambling establishment, a Faro Table, kept, as appears from Judge Bay's opinion, by Henry L. Watson, Jas. H. Watson, and Nicholas Spalding. Main was induced to stake this money, and being the loser, paid it over to those persons. The bank notes were afterwards demand of the Watsons and Spalding by the agent of S. & M. Allen, and they refusing to deliver them up, an action of trover was brought for their recovery. Judge Bay was of opinion that as the notes lost at play belonged to S. & M. Allen, and as they had done no act to divest themselves of their property, they were entitled to recover them from the defendants by this form of action.

Paying up and paying down.—There is, as every printer must be aware, a surprising difference between *paying up* and *paying down*. When a long standing subscriber, of whose money you have never fingered a cent, threatens to *pay up*, the inference is forced upon you, that he intends to *discontinue*—and though your empty pockets are crying for cash, you cannot help considering the threat of *paying up* as the knell of a departed *patron*. But *paying down*, on the contrary, causes a sensation of pleasure without alloy. *Paying down*, presupposes no discontinuance of favors; no interruption of flattering prospects; but hearty encouragement to go on your way rejoicing, in the hope of being paid down from year to year, as your labors deserve.

Berkshire American.

New Case.—We have before us a late letter from one of the western states, which gives the following description of singular mode of paying one's debts. It is a new case in the fruitful annals of fraud. *Rich. Comp.*

"The dead has risen! A preacher by the name of ——, formerly a resident of —— co. Va. by occupation a merchant, became very much embarrassed with debt: some time in the summer of 1828 he was taken very sick, and after a short illness was consigned to the tomb; the corpse or coffin was interred by his neighbors—his funeral was accordingly preached—and his family wearing mourning. The sales of his property being over, his family moved to the state of Alabama. A respectable gentleman recently from the state of Alabama, arrived here a few days since, states that he was well acquainted with —— and saw him in Alabama, he conversed with him, and left him quite well. It appears that his illness was affected to blind his creditors. The coffin in which his remains were supposed to have been interred, has, since the arrival of the gentleman who saw him, been taken up, which contains nothing but a *log of wood!* It is supposed that he carried off with him money of considerable amount, and left his creditors without their pay."

Juvenile Philosophy.—Walking the other day in the streets, we saw a little fellow fall on his face on the pavement, on which he roared out most lustily. Running to pick him up, we wisely applied ourselves to cheer him with the consideration that he would be well to-morrow. "Poh, poh, my little man, don't cry, you'll not mind it to-morrow." Upon which the young sufferer, surely unconscious of the sense and wit of his reply, said, with a tear in his eye, and the cry of pain hardly for a moment repressed—"Then I won't cry to-morrow." A discourse of an hour long could not better elucidate the subject. *Liv. Adv.*

From the Augusta Courier.

Seeing a notice in some of the papers of an arrival of 86 *game cocks* in New York, reminds me of an anecdote which is currently reported in this city as a matter of fact; and which you are at liberty to publish, as an incident connected with the recent fire.

The story runs thus:—During the progress of the fire, in pulling down enclosures in Centre, or Bridge-street, a couple of game cocks were released from their confinement, and immediately engaged in battle. A Mr.——, celebrated for his attach-

ment to the sports of the pit, observing the contest between the fowls, abandoned his "goods and chattles, lands and tenements," to the devouring element, and devoted his time and attention solely to the contest between the fowls; and there stood, looking on, till he actually sustained some personal injury from the heat of the flames. A person seeing the gentleman apparently idle, called upon him for some assistance, in removing his goods; and was answered by the exclamation, "Look here—what a fight!" Q.

Tempting.—A lottery scheme is advertised in an Ohio paper, by which it appears that a "fortunate holder," of a single ticket, will stand *one* chance in *one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight*, to draw a prize above fifty dollars! we have made the calculation for the special benefit of adventurers.

Schoharie Rep.

Governor Derbigny, of Louisiana, has pardoned, or rather commuted the punishment of a man named Gayarre, who was convicted of murdering his own mother-in-law, with his own offspring at the time in her arms. This act has drawn down upon him the strongest reprobation of the press of that state. He is warned of the fate of Gov. Desha; and those who were warmest in supporting him for the office, now appear to be loudest in their condemnation of his official conduct. It is insinuated that the punishment of Gayarre was commuted, because his connexions were influential and respectable.

We see by the newspapers, that Mr. Owen, of Lanark, arrived at Cincinnati on Friday the 10th of April, in compliance with an engagement to meet the Rev. A. Campbell, in a public controversy. A large town meeting was held, on the evening previous to his arrival, at which the mayor of the city presided, and the challenge of Mr. Owen and the reply of Mr. Campbell having been read, a committee of ten citizens was appointed "to procure a suitable place for the meeting, and also to make what arrangements may be necessary thereto. Upon our word, we think that the good people of Cincinnati might be more profitably employed than in encouraging this bootless wrangling. *Nat. Intel.*

Progress of Temperance in Georgia.—The Georgia Journal says, that since the formation of Temperance Societies in that state, not less than 1000 families have wholly given up the use of ardent spirits, and 1000 more use half the quantity, which they did two years ago.

A Temperate Man.—There is now living in Providence, (R. I.) a man aged about 58 years, who was never out of the state of Rhode Island, never sick, or took medicine; never sued or was sued; has been up before sunrise every day in the last forty years; and has not tasted any kind of inebriating liquor for thirty years.

At Fairfield Court House, the case of the state of South Carolina vs. Shadrick Jacobs, was lately tried. Jacobs was charged with the murder of Andrew Feaster, who was killed *upwards of twenty-one years* ago. The evidence against Jacobs was chiefly presumptive. He was found guilty of murder, but recommended by the jury to executive clemency. He had appealed for a new trial.

Sioux Indians.—In the last Galena Miner's Journal of the 7th of March, we observe it stated on the authority of a gentleman of the army, then at that place, that he had received a communication from Mr. Marsh, Indian agent at Praire du Chien, stating that he had information of a collection of Sioux Indians to the number of about 4,000, who, it is said, intended to descend the Mississippi this spring, on a visit to the Sac and Fox nations of Indians; but for what purpose is not yet known. It is however understood that a good deal of discontent prevails among the northwestern tribes, perhaps in consequence of some misunderstanding between them and the whites.

From a French Paper.

The Courier du Bas Rhin contains the following mysterious story;—"A most singular occurrence took place about a fortnight ago at Sarreguemines. A rich and pious lady, being at church, joined in the service with remarkable fervor. Upon rising from her knees, she found behind her a letter which announced that St. Peter would sup with her that evening, and bring her news from her husband, who had died a short time before. A sumptuous repast was prepared, and in the evening a knock was heard at the door. A robust man, having a long beard, and a large iron key hanging by his side, entered and saluted her with a benignant air. The apostle related to her many glorious things respecting the other world, and dwelt particularly upon the felicity enjoyed by her late husband. At length they sat down to table, and the servant-girl was ordered to carry the dishes to the door and leave them there, from whence the lady fetched them and placed them on the table. The servant on her side, had an apostle in the person of a stout gendarme, who came to pay her an evening visit. Surprised at seeing so much bustle in the kitchen, he inquired the cause. "We have a stranger come to supper," said the servant, "who has a very singular appearance. He has a long beard, but I only caught a glimpse of him, for my mistress forbids me to enter the room." The gendarme followed the servant to the door, which he pushed open and went in. "Who are you, Sir," said he, abruptly, "and where is your passport?" "The Saints," replied the stranger, "have no need of passports; I am St. Peter, and here is my key." The gendarme withdrew, but went out and communicated the adventure to his brigadier. The latter took several men with him, and went and hid himself in the lady's house.—Shortly after, there was another knock at the door. It was opened, and four other apostles entered. The gendarme immediately seized them, found they had concealed under their clothes, daggers, knives, pistols, keys and whistles. All the Saints were handcuffed and taken to Metz, where they were committed to prison to take their trial."

Died in Newport, England, Miss E. Upward, youngest daughter of Mr. W. Upward, silversmith, &c. after a long illness occasioned by fright. About seven years ago, a military officer caught the girl up and tossed her into the air, catching her again as she came down. The child however was influenced by fright to such an extent, as brought on a palpitation and enlargement of the heart, of which she ultimately died.

The want of due consideration is the cause of all the unhappiness a man brings upon himself.

The National Intelligencer,

Published in the City of Washington,
By GALES & SEATON.

THE National Intelligencer is an old established journal, at the seat of the general government. It publishes, originally, regularly and fully, the proceedings and debates of congress; also all the state papers and documents of public interest, laid before congress or originating in that body, and all the acts passed by them. These recommendations, in addition to a variety of other information which is to be found in its columns, connected with the general interests of our own country, with literature and science, and the affairs of the world at large; together with the character of general fairness which the paper has sustained under its present editors for many years, make the National Intelligencer useful, and even valuable, to all who feel an interest in the concerns of this or of other countries.

The National Intelligencer is not a party paper, but censures or approves where censure or approbation seems to be due to public measures. It supported the late administration of the general government, when the measures of that administration were such as to meet its approbation. It avows a determination, though it opposed the election of Gen. Jackson, to support the just measures of this administration, but as certainly to oppose the unjust or the proscriptive. It will be, in principle, opposed to any administration of the government whose measures shall show it to have the interests of a party at heart, rather than the great interests of the country. It is, in a word, what its title denotes, a National paper.

For the independent and impartial course which it has pursued, the National Intelligencer has been denounced, and an attempt has been made to put it down, right or wrong, by the strong arm of power directed by caucus agency. The attempt is as vain as it would be for any modern prophet to bid the sun stand still. Thirty years old, this National paper is not yet in its prime, but acquires strength and power with every day of its existence.

Without having ever sought for popularity, or courted public patronage, the National Intelligencer enjoys already the widest circulation of any newspaper in the United States. It is read in every state and territory in the country. It is read in every capital in Europe, and possesses sources of information exceeded by no other journal.

For the first time, an effort is made to enlarge the subscription to it by sending forth this prospectus, which our adversaries in politics are expected to deal so generously with as to let it be seen, and our friends so kindly as to further our purpose with their aid and countenance. Heretofore we have hardly wished to enlarge our subscription list. Intending hereafter, however, to devote ourselves wholly to the newspaper, and to a proper improvement of "the condition of the press," we invite such further subscriptions, as, being punctually paid, will remunerate our labor and expenses.

The National Intelligencer is published daily, at ten dollars per annum payable in advance. It is published, also, for the more convenient circulation where a daily mail does not penetrate, three times a week, at six dollars per annum, payable in advance. A remittance of either of these amounts in bank paper, by mail, will ensure the prompt and regular transmission of every paper that may be ordered.

Those subscribing will please to signify whether they desire the paper for a year only, and then to be stopped without farther notice, or wish it to be continued until countermanded.

Washington, March 5. 75—

HILLSBOROUGH.

Wednesday, May 6.

Negro Absalom, convicted at the last term of Chatham Superior Court of the murder of Alexander Clark, was hung at Pittsborough on the 24th ult. pursuant to sentence. Notwithstanding the day was wet and disagreeable, it is understood that between three and four thousand persons were present to witness this infliction of the awful and just punishment which the law has provided for the atrocious, cold-blooded murderer.

Negro Adam, convicted of Burglary, and sentenced to be hung at the same time with Absalom, was pardoned by the governor.

Col. James W. Clark, of Tarborough, has been appointed chief clerk in the navy department.

Commodore Hull has been appointed to the command of the naval station at Washington, vacated by the death of the venerable Commodore Tingey.

The dwelling house of Joseph Tyson, esq. of Moore county, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 23d ult. with nearly all its contents.

The Richmond papers state, that the whole amount of stock (100,000 dollars) for making the Chesterfield Rail Road, extending from the coal pitts in Chesterfield county to James river, had been subscribed for and the books closed.

Public Executions are prohibited in the state of New-York after the 1st of January next. We hope the time is nigh at hand when such shall be the law in all the states. We cannot but think that these solemn enforcements of the law will be attended with better effect, when executed in private, apart from the parade and excitement always attending public executions.

Singular Names.—A meeting was held at the Merchant's Exchange, in the city of New-York, on the 22d ultimo, to consider the subject of the claims of the merchants of the United States upon the government of France for spoliations, at which Mr *Preserved Fish* presided. And a marriage lately took place at Fall River, Massachusetts, between Mr Andrew Fearing, merchant, of Boston, and Miss *Aldirorontiphoscophorino Cowen*, of Fall River.

Mrs. Mary Dickson, the proprietor of the Lancaster Intelligencer, one of the oldest democratic papers in Pennsylvania, has been charged with the superintendance of the post office of Lancaster city, in the room of Mrs. Ann Moore, resigned.

American Glass.—The Pittsburg Mercury states, that the President has ordered a set of glass for his table, from Messrs. Bakewell, Page & Bakewell, of that city—thus evincing his desire to promote American industry in preference to foreign.

The Georgetown Columbian states, that Mr. John H. Henshaw, a clerk in the fourth auditor's office, in a fit of derangement put a period to his existence by cutting his throat from ear to ear. He is represented as having been a gentleman of dignified manners and fine literary taste.

Charleston & Hamburg Rail Road.—The ship Elizabeth arrived at Charleston on the 26th ult. having on board 2646 bars of iron for the Charleston and Hamburg Rail Road. Several other parcels for the same road are on the way to the same port—7127 bars in the ship Boston, daily expected.

Daniel Johnson has obtained a verdict for 150 dollars, and Erastus root for 200 dollars, at Catskill, N. York, against the owner of a hackney coach, in which they were overturned and injured.

Bishop England, of Charleston, S. C. has been transferred to Ireland by the Pope, and created Lord Bishop of Ossory.

The frost at Charleston, S. C., on the 26th ult. was sufficiently severe to destroy some of the young fruit in the gardens, particularly figs.

So great was the scarcity of water in the Island of St. Barts, on the 1st ult. that a cargo brought from St. Kitts, was selling at five dollars per puncheon.

Four of the pirates who, under the Colombian flag, recently robbed an American ship, were executed at St. Thomas on the 26th of March.

The Wine Trade of France.—From an article in the New-York Journal of Commerce, it appears than 3,000,000 persons are employed in branches of industry connected with the wine trade in France. The quantity of wines annually produced is estimated at 1,050,000,000 gallons, valued at from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty million dollars.

A popular insurrection is reported to have broken out at Rome on the subject of the conclave. The people, it seems, wish to name the Pope themselves.

A correspondent of the New-York Journal of Commerce, in a letter dated London, March 23, says, "That England and France intend placing the young queen on the throne of Portugal, there exists no doubt; and those two powers only await the junction of a Brazilian squadron, with a very effective force, to make a descent on Portugal."

In the New-York Courier it is said that a grand project is in contemplation between the government of France and that of England, to do away with the small powers on the Barbary coast, now become a complete nuisance. The plan is to colonize the coast of Barbary with French and English subjects, for which they are to obtain the sanction of the Sultan, in a special negotiation, and a person of heretofore great renown is to be employed in the business at the court of Constantinople.

RAIL ROADS AND CANALS.

The American Quarterly Review states, that there are now 3508 miles of canal and rail road constructed and constructing in the United States, and funds provided for their completion; and observes, that "notwithstanding so much is done and doing, we feel that the spirit of the country is just awakened; we speak confidently of more than doubling all this within the next ten years. Already we have actually projected, surveyed, and ascertained the cost and practicability of 4000 more of artificial communication. The federal and local governments, and individual companies, vie with each other in such works. The effect of them in this scattered nation has been signal; they have stimulated our whole population; have carried a sort of creative faculty with them into the interior; have brought into notice and given value to numberless articles of agricultural and native products, that never were estimated, or sought a market before; they have given an activity to the people corresponding to the facility afforded; they carry intelligence and diffuse it into some of our most uncultivated settlements; they are developing our coal, iron, and all other resources, and founding upon them the arts and manufactures which create a home market, and enrich our commerce with all the interchanges incident thereto; they insure that independence and comfort to the nation, which it looked for in vain, whilst it depended on foreign commerce for necessaries; they are uniting and amalgamating the people, and imparting to them a unity of design, a community of interest, and a celerity of movement that will insure to us a wealth, a polish, and a political influence worthy of such a people, possessing such a country.

"This system of intercommunication will build up a home market, and we will sustain a circle of commerce with one another, infinitely more complete than that which the different European States have among themselves; because embracing more variety of climate, and a richer series of productions. Imagine the time not distant, when each district of our country thus connected, will have developed its own peculiar resources, and be ready to throw them into the great circle of interchange, and swell the active stream of our internal commerce: Pennsylvania, with her iron, coal, marble, lead, glass, lumber, flour, wool, butter, and beef, and all her handicraft employments; New York, with her salt, flour, gypsum, and foreign commerce; New England, with her fish, oil, lumber, ships, and manufactures; Maryland and Virginia, with their tobacco, flour, Indian corn, fish, and lumber, and wine; S. Carolina and Georgia, their cotton, rice, sugar indigo, and lumber; Louisiana, Florida, and Mississippi, their sugar, molasses, rum, cotton, rice, indigo, olive oil, and wine; Kentucky and Tennessee, their flour, whiskey, hemp tobacco, salt, coal, iron, mules, horses, pork, and live stock; Ohio, her pork, lard, butter, cheese, flour, cattle, wool, horses, salt, and coal; Missouri and Illinois, their lead, iron, fur, and lumber; Indiana, her whiskey, corn, and pork; and the Northern Lakes, their white fish, fur and copper. Add to the above, all the richness and variety of shapes into which our manufacturers and artists will elaborate those products, and the wealth and splendor that foreign commerce will throw over them, and we will have the picture that the next twenty years will present to us, and which even now is half finished. All this developement awaits but a few years; it proceeds with the certainty of mathematics; time, not tariffs, conducts it on: it is the result of our growth, our free institutions, our wants, our well established enterprise; no system can retard nor much accelerate it."

Eccentric Liberality.—Some individual in Massachusetts, who chuses to remain *incognito*, has sent to the address of our public treasurer, a box containing two hundred and fifty *Family Prayer Books*, with a request that the same may be distributed "among all the members of government and Courts of Justice." He states that the donation is intended for good and to encourage pure religion. The donor enclosed to the treasurer, money to pay the expense of transportation, asking him to appropriate the overplus, if any, for the relief of some destitute object. *Ral. Reg.*

A letter from Washington, published in the New York Evening Post, furnishes, under date of April 14, the information that all the diplomatic corps resident at the seat of government, have been formally and collectively presented, by the secretary of state, to the president of the United States. Of the particulars of this interview, the writer gives the following account:

"As they arrived, the secretary of state announced them to the president by name (as he would have done any private gentleman,) who received them in the most courteous and graceful manner—for he is a gentleman of the old school, of polished and dignified deportment. To each of them, as he took them by the hand, he had something civil and appropriate to say. After they had all assembled, he expressed to them, in a brief, neat, and impressive address, the personal gratification he experienced at thus meeting them together, as it afforded him the opportunity to reiterate to them, respectfully, the sentiments expressed in that part of his inaugural address which related to the foreign policy of the government. He added: 'I am quite sure the true interests of this country will be best promoted by preserving the relations of peace with all nations, as long as that can be done with a due regard to its own honor, and by commercial intercourse founded on a just reciprocity.' He continued: 'I have entered, gentlemen, upon the high trust committed to me, without prejudices against, or undue partialities towards, any foreign nation or people; but with personal feelings of the most friendly character for all. Although actuated by a determined purpose to promote the best interests of my own country, I have no desire to impair the rights or interests of others, and will endeavor to effect those objects by the most frank, friendly, and sincere negotiation. Where differences exist, or may hereafter arise, it will be my desire to settle them on fair and honorable terms, in that spirit of frankness so congenial to my nature and the character of the American people.'

"I have thus given you the substance, and, as near as I can recollect, the language used on the occasion, at which I was present. At the conclusion, he bowed round to them all, which they returned, and with the most gratified feelings they took their leave. Never did a ceremonial go off better or with more effect."

Caution.—We have received information from an authentic source, that *counterfeit dollars* of the description given below, are in circulation to the west of us, in very considerable quantities; we therefore take this method of putting our fellow-citizens upon their guard.

One kind purports to be a Mexican dollar of 1826; it weighs 406 grains, being 10 grains lighter than a U. S. dollar. On assaying at the Mint, it was found to contain but 40 cents worth of silver.

Another kind purports to be a Ferdinand dollar of 1816. It weighs 338 grains, being 28 grains lighter than a U. S. dollar, and contains 31⅓ cents worth of silver.

The manner in which these counterfeits are executed, renders them extremely difficult of detection—so much so, that even an experienced eye could not discover the fraud by merely inspecting the external surface. *Newbern Sentinel.*

Counterfeit Notes.—The public are cautioned against receiving spurious 5's, 10's and 20 dollar bills, purporting to be of the bank of Virginia, payable at the branch bank of Petersburg, Lynchburg, and Fredricksburg. The engravings and signatures of the president and cashier, are very well executed, but the paper is more indifferent and of a whiter cast than the genuine notes.

No particular marks are recollected about the $5 bills. The circle enclosing the figure 10 on the left end of the ten dollar counterfeit notes, are much more uneven and ragged in its appearance than those in the genuine notes.

Over the letter K, in the word bank, in the genuine twenty dollar bills, there is a small flourish, which does not appear on the counterfeits. A number of these notes are now circulating in this city and in Philadelphia; and there can be but little doubt that active exertions are making in various sections of the country, to put them in *circulation*.

Richmond Compiler.

Ordination.—The Rev. J. R. Goodman of Newbern, was on Thursday last, admitted to the holy order of Priesthood, by the Right Reverend John S. Ravenscroft, bishop of this diocess. The ceremony was performed in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and an appropriate and impressive sermon delivered by the venerable diocesan, from 1st Thessalonians, 2d chapter and 5th verse "God is witness." *Edenton Sentinel.*

NOTICE.

I HEREBY caution all persons from trading for a note given by me some time in January last, and payable the first of January next, to Thos. Davis, of Orange county; which note was obtained by misrepresentation of property sold me, and I am not disposed to pay it.

Daniel M. Dulany.

Onslow county, April 15th. 79—3wp

An adjourned meeting of the citizens of Orange county friendly to internal improvements, will be held at the court house in Hillsborough, on Monday of May court, to consult on measures calculated to promote that all-important object.

April 21. 78—

FOR SALE,

6,000 lbs. BACON, and a quantity of LARD, by

Turner & Phillips.

April 21. 70—3m

State of North-Carolina,

ORANGE COUNTY.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, February Term, 1829.

IT is ordered by the Court, that in future, Monday of each term of the court shall be considered and set apart for the transaction of all county business; and that witnesses and jurors be summoned to attend on Tuesday of each term of the court; and that the clerk cause this order to be published for three months in the Hillsborough Recorder.

Test,

J. Taylor, Clk.

April 14 77—6w

MAN.

The human mind—that lofty thing!
The palace and the throne
Where awful reason sits as king,
And breathes his judgment tone—
O who, with fragile step, shall trace,
Nor, in his weakness, own,
That mystery and marvel bind
That lofty thing, the human mind!

The human heart—that restless thing!
The tempter and the tried;
The haughty, yet the suffering;
The child of pain and pride;
The buoyant and the desolate;
The home of love, the lair of hate;
Self-strung and self-denied;
Yet do we bless thee as thou art,
Thou restless thing—the human heart!

The human soul—that holy thing!
The silently sublime;
The angel sleeping on the wing,
Worn with the scuffs of time;
The beautiful, the veil'd, the bound;
A prince enslaved—a victim crown'd;
The stricken in its prime!
In tears—in tears to earth it stole—
That holy thing—the human soul!

And this is man! Oh! ask of him—
The gifted, and forgiven—
When o'er the landscape drear and dim,
The wreck of storms is driven,
If pride or passion, in their power,
Can chain the tide, or charm the hour,
Or stand in place of heaven;
He bends the brow, he bows the knee—
"Creator—Father—none but Thee!"

A CANE BRAKE.

The following description of a cane brake (a swamp filled with arundo gigantina or miegia macros perma,) presents a scene which must be new to many.

"Every one has seen this reed in the form in which it is used for angling rods. It grows on the lower courses of the Mississippi, Arkansas, and the Red-river, from fifteen to thirty feet in height. We have seen some, in these rich soils, that would vie with the bamboo. The leaves are of a beautiful green—long, narrow, dagger shaped, not unlike those of the Egyptian millet. It grows in equi-distant joints, perfectly straight, almost a compact mass; and to us, in winter especially, is the richest looking vegetation that we have ever seen. The smallest sparrow would find it difficult to fly among it: and to see its ten thousand stems, rising almost contiguous to each other, and to look at the impervious roof of verdure which it forms at its top, it has the aspect of being a solid layer of vegetation. A man could not make three miles in a day through a thick cane-brake. It is the chosen resort of bears and panthers, which break it down, and make their way into it, as a retreat from man. It indicates a dry soil, above the inundation, and of the richest character. The ground is never in better preparation for maize, than after this prodigious mass of vegetation is first cut down and burned. When the cane has been cut, and is so dried that it will burn, it is an amusement of high holiday to the negroes, to set fire to a cane brake thus prepared. The rarified air in the hollow compartments of the cane burst them with a report, not much inferior to a discharge of musketry, and the burning of a cane brake makes the noise of a conflicting army, in which thousands of muskets are continually discharging. This beautiful vegetable is generally asserted to have a life of five years; at the end of which period, if it has grown undisturbed, it produces an abundant crop of seed, with heads very like those of broom corn. The seeds are farinaceous, and said to be not much inferior to wheat, for which the Indians and occasionally the first settlers have substituted it. No prospect so impressively shows the prodigality of nature, as a thick cane brake. Nothing affords such a rich and perennial range for cattle, sheep, and horses. The butter that is made from the cane pastures of this region, is of the finest kind. The seed easily vegetates in any rich soil. It rises from the ground, like the richest asparagus, with a large succulent stem, and it grows six feet high before the body hardens from this succulency and tenderness. No other vegetable could furnish a fodder so rich or abundant, nor in our view does any other agricultural project so strongly call for a trial as the annual sowing of cane, in regions too northern for it to survive the winter. We suppose this would be in latitude 39 degrees."

EFFECTS OF FEAR.

Some years since, while an American vessel of war was stationed at Norfolk, Va. Dr. D. an amiable and intelligent man, acting as physician and surgeon to it, used frequently to lodge on shore, at the house of a respectable lady, to whose only son, a child about four or five years old, the doctor had become strongly attached, from having discovered in him an extraordinary degree of precocity and an interesting disposition. After some months, the vessel was again ordered to sea, and Dr. D. parted with regret. More than a year had elapsed, and the same vessel returned to Norfolk, when the Dr. repaired to the house of his landlady to see his little protege. The child flew to his embrace delighted to see him. After the first caress was over, "who, my dear boy," said Dr. D. patting his head as he spoke, "who has been powdering your hair?" "Nobody," replied the boy, whose joy was turned to the most extravagant grief, and bursting into a passion of tears, he quitted the apartment. Dr. D sat in silent amazement, for the boy's hair was as white as the mountain snow. In a moment after, the mother entered, and when the first congratulations were over, he inquired the meaning of the late scene. Saying to her "what have you been doing to your son's hair?" "Nothing," sobbed she, and following the boy's example, she weeping, left the room.

The next time he called she was better able to account for the mystery; and informed him that a short time before she had been aroused at midnight by the loud and piercing shrieks of her child; and, on hastening to his bed, found him sitting up in it; his countenance wild with horror, and the whole surface of his body dripping with cold perspiration. On being made sensible of her presence, in a confused and incoherent manner he told her he had been visited by a frightful dream.

The next day it was discovered that his hair was bleached as though he had lived a century. The mystery, for such it may certainly be considered, was not perfectly understood, till about three years since, when, by the dying confession of a relation who was to inherit the property of the child at his decease, it was confessed, that on the night which the boy imagined he had been visited by a dream, he had himself made an attempt to strangle him, but was deterred from the commission by the terrific screams of the boy.

HEREDITARY PREDISPOSITION TO SUICIDE.

That suicide, like other species of madness, frequently runs in the blood of particular families, there can be no doubt. M. Fairet gives a striking instance of this. A young man committed suicide at Paris, and his brother was sent for from the country to attend his funeral. On seeing the body he was seized with great agitation, and exclaimed, with melancholy foreboding, "Alas! my father died by his own hand, and now my brother has fallen a victim to the same fate, which awaits me also, as I have been strongly tempted, when on my way hither, to follow their example, and I cannot avoid it." A similar instance is mentioned by the celebrated Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia. According to Dr. Burrows, the propensity to suicide will propagate its own type through successive races. "I have had several members of one family under my care, where this propensity declared itself through three generations: in the first, the grandfather hung himself; he left four sons, one hung himself, another cut his throat; and a third drowned himself in a most extraordinary manner, after being some months insane; the fourth died a natural death, which, from his eccentricity and unequal mind, was scarcely to be expected. Two of these sons had large families; one child of the third son died insane; two others drowned themselves; another is now insane, and has made the most determined attempts on his life. Several of the progeny of this family, being the fourth generation, who are now arrived at puberty, bear strong marks of the same fatal propensity. None, I believe, of the children of the fourth son, of the second generation, who died a natural death, have manifested this predisposition."

Politeness.—A backwoodsman of Mississippi swag, from Kentucky, meeting a French dandy on Chartres street of New-Orleans, horseback, as he passed the equestrian monsieur, near a puddle, the boatman made a sweeping bow, pulling off his hat at the same time and giving it a low swing, at which the mettled steed, not fancying such *grace*, took fright, and left monsieur to make a pedestrian retreat out of the mire. With the national characteristic of his urbane country, he returned the salute, but could not refrain from exclaiming, "Saire, you are too d——d polite saire."

The Retort Surgical.—At a late examination of the College of Surgeons, a candidate was asked by Dr. Abernethy what he would do if a man were blown up with gunpowder?—'Why,' coldly answered the tyro, 'wait till he came down again.' 'True, said Abernethy, 'and suppose I kicked you for such an impertinent reply, what muscles should I put in motion?' 'Why,' said the young man, 'the flexors and extensors of my right leg, for I should *floor* you directly.' *London paper.*

LIST OF LETTERS.

Remaining in the Post Office at Hillsborough, on the 1st of April, 1829

A
Joseph Armstrong
David Allison
Archibald A. Austin 2
John H. Atkins

B
Jehu Bird
Caroline A. Burgwin
Richard Breeze
Frederick Baynes
Joshua Berry
Hellen D. Bond
Henry Boyle 2
Abigail Brown
William Bowls

C
Benjamin Crutchfield
Samuel Child
Ilay Copley
Sintha Clemmons
James Clark
Blake & Clayton
Londer Camel
Jesse Chamnes
Nash & Cole
Richard Christmas
Duncan Cameron
Richard Clinton 2
William Clark
James Cole
John W. Clark
Burrous Cheek

D
Anthony Dougharty

F
Mary Furgerson
Thomas Faucett
Stephen Frontis 2
Sally Flint
Thomas Faddis
James Fawcett

G
Elijah Graves
Catherine Goutch
Western R. Gales
David George
Wm. W. Gantt

H
John Horn
F. L. Hawks 3
Andrew Hunter
Nathaniel Hicks 3
Daniel Herring
Michael Holt
Winniford Hardee
James Horn
Canady Horton

J
Samuel Johnston 2
Stephen Justice
Benoni Jackson
Jesse James
Edward Jones
Mr. Justice
Susanna Jackson

K
James A. King
Joseph Kirkpatrick
Benjamin Kidd
F. J. Kron 2

L
Richard Ledbetter
John B. Lewis
Martin Laycock
David Lockhart

M
James Moore
Richard Marcom
James Mebane 2
John A. Mebane
Willie P. Mangum
James Miles

John Newlin

P
Nathaniel J. Palmer
M. A. Patrick
Hannah Porter
Mr. Peacock
John Payne
John Potterfield
Tempy Primrose
William Pipes

R
Nathaniel Revels
Ferderick Reeves
John Roberts
William Rainey
George Roads

S
Presley H. Swinney
William Strathorn
Gilbert Strayhorn
Sheriff Orange County
Hickman S. Slayton
Clerk Superior Court
John Stockard 2
John Stephens
Joseph Shaw

T
Thomas Thompson 2
John Taylor 2
Josiah Turner
Rebecca Thompson
Robert Tinnin
John Turner

W
Thomas Watts
James Ward
John Workman jr.
Rebecca Watson
Anson G. Williams
William Werritt
Patrick H. Winston

Y
Joel Yancey
David Yarborough 2

R. L. Cook, P. M.

April 7. —76

State of North Carolina,

ORANGE COUNTY.

In Equity.

Adam Wrightsell and wife, and others, ex parte. } Petition for sale of land.

PURSUANT to a decree of the Court of Equity for said county, made in the above cause, at March term last, I shall expose to public sale, to the highest bidder, on a credit of one and two years, before the court house door in Hillsborough, on Tuesday the 26th day of May next, the same being the week of the County Court, the following tract of land, belonging to the heirs of Henry Wrightsell, deceased, containing two hundred and twenty acres, more or less, lying and being on Rock Creek, in Orange county. Bond and approved security will be required.

J. Webb, c. M. E.

March 17. 73—

WANTED,

AS an apprentice to the Boot and Shoe making business, a lad fifteen or sixteen years of age, of industrious habits.

Charles L. Cooley.

April 14. 77—

NORTH-CAROLINIAN

Will stand the ensuing season, at my stable in Hillsborough. For particulars see the bills.

Josiah Turner.

Feb. 10. 68—

NO CREDIT.

SCARLETT & BACON

WOULD inform the public, that they still continue their BOOT and SHOE Manufacture at their old stand, three doors west of the store of Messrs. Kirkland & Son, where they will keep constantly on hand, a general assortment of

Boots and Shoes,

of the best materials and workmanship, which will be sold low for cash. Those wishing to purchase will do well to call and examine for themselves.

Jan. 6. 63—

BLANKS for sale at this Office.

PRICES CURRENT.

		Wilmington, *April* 29.		Fayetteville, *April* 30.		Newbern, *April* 18.		Petersburg, *April* 17.	
		cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.
Brandy, Cogniac,	gall.	100 a 120		150 a 175		150 a 175		125	200
Apple,		35	37	40	45	36	40	45	75
Peach,		—		50	60	75		45	75
Bacon,	lb.	7	8	6	6½	5	6	6½	7
Beeswax,		22	25	20	22	20		22	25
Butter,		15		15	20	20	25	12	20
Coffee,		13	14	13	16½	13	15	12½	17
Corn,	bush.	60		50		28	32	45	50
Cotton,	lb.	8	8½	7½	8	8	8	7	9½
Candles, mould,		15	16	14		15		12	15
Flaxseed, rough,	bush.	—		85		70	80		—
Flour,	bbl.	800		450	525	800	850	650	1000
Feathers,	lb.	—		25	28	30	35		—
Gin, Holland,	gall.	—		125	150	125	150	100	125
Country,		40	45	50		88	40	35	
Iron,	ton.	—		—		—		10250	11500
Lard,	lb.	8		6		6	7	6	7
Lime,	cask.	150	175	250	300	—		150	200
Molasses,	gall.	30	33	32	33	30	32½	33	37½
Nails, Cut, assorted,	keg.	—		8½	9	8	10	7½	8
Oats,	bush.	—		25	30	—		—	
Powder, American,	keg.	—		725	800	—		550	600
Rum, Jamaica,	gall.	125		125	150	150	125	150	200
West India,		110	112	70	80	90	95	100	150
New England,		35		45	50	40	42	36	37½
Rice,	cwt.	275		350	400	300	325	400	500
Shot,		—		1000		900	1000	700	750
Salt, Liverpool,	bush.	—		75	80	80	100	70	75
Turk's Island,		45	50	80	90	55	60	—	
Sugar, Brown,	cwt.	900	1000	875	1000	900	1000	700	1300
Loaf,	lb.	—		20	25	18	25	18	25
Tea, Imperial and Gunpowder,		—		150	175	160	180	125	150
Hyson,		—		120		125	150	—	
Young Hyson,		—		—		—		100	125
Tobacco,	cwt.	400		250	300	—		350	1100
Tallow,	lb.	8	9	8		9	10	—	
Wheat,	bush.	—		90	95	100		100	120
Whiskey,	gall.	30	33	22	25	35		30	33
Wine, Madeira,		—		250	400	300	400	250	500
Teneriffe,		—		150	175	160	200	—	
Sherry,		—		160	225	200	250	—	
Port,		—		200	380	—		—	
Malaga,		—		70	80	100	120	—	

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A specimen of the above work may be seen at this office.

March 11. 76—

State of North Carolina,

ORANGE COUNTY.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, February Term, 1829.

Thomas Scott, assignee, vs. *Francis L. Hawks.* }

UPON motion of the plaintiff, by his counsel, it appearing to the court that the defendant is not an inhabitant of this state, it is ordered by the court, that a judicial attachment issue and be levied on the effects of said defendant: and that the same be advertised in the Hillsborough Recorder, for six weeks successively, for the defendant to appear and plead thereto, or judgment will be rendered against him at the next term of this court.

Test, J. Taylor, C. C. C.

Price Adv. $2 50. 72—6w

GRAPE VINES.

MR. BLODGET presents his compliments to the public, and informs them that he has procured fifty-two sort of Grape Vines the spontaneous growth of the United States, Among the best flavored for making wine equal to the best Madeira, is the Scuppernong. He likewise informs the public that he has located a Vineyard in the vicinity of the city of Raleigh, on the stage road leading to Chapel-Hill, where he will furnish slips in the greatest quantity to those who may wish them.

January 13. 64—

HILLSBOROUGH, N. C.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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FOR SALE,

A few likely Negroes,

Inquire of

Thomas Clancy.

March 24. 74—

State of North-Carolina.

CHATHAM COUNTY.

Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, February Term, 1829.

John Lindley, and others, vs. *Charles Milliken and wife, and others.* } Petition for partition of land.

IT appearing to the court, that Charles Milliken and his wife, two of the defendants in this case, are not inhabitants of this state, it is therefore ordered, that publication be made for six weeks successively in the Hillsborough Recorder, for the said Millikan and wife to appear at the next Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, for Chatham county, to be held at Pittsborough, on the second Monday of May next, then and there to answer, plead or demur to the said petition, or the same will be taken as confessed against them.

Test, Thos. Ragland, c. c. c.

Price Adv. $2 75. 73—6w

State of North Carolina,

ORANGE COUNTY.

In Equity.

Elizabeth Marshall, widow, and Mary Marshall and others, children of Thomas Marshall, dec'd. ex parte. } Petition for sale of land.

PURSUANT to a decree of the Court of Equity, made in this cause at March term last, I shall expose to public sale, before the court house door in Hillsborough, on Tuesday the 26th day of May next, (the same being County Court week) the following tract of land, belonging to the heirs of the late Thomas Marshall, deceased, lying on Rock Creek, one of the waters of Stinking Quarter, in said county, containing by estimation two hundred and thirty-eight acres, more or less. A credit of twelve months will be given. Bond and approved security required.

J. Webb, c. M. E.

March 17. 73—

State of North Carolina,

ORANGE COUNTY.

In Equity.

John Hicks and others, ex parte. } Petition for sale of land.

PURSUANT to a decree of the Court of Equity, for Orange county, made in the above cause, at March term last, I shall expose to public sale, to the highest bidder, on a credit of one and two years, before the court house door in Hillsborough, on Tuesday the 26th day of May next, (the same being County Court week,) the following tract of land, belonging to the heirs of the late William Hicks, deceased, lying and being in said county, on the waters of Eno River, adjoining the lands of John Walker, John Roberts, Joseph Allison and others, containing three hundred and forty-nine acres, after laying off the widow's dower. Bond and approved security will be required.

J. Webb, c. M. E.

March 17. 73—